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analysed in an introduction of reasonable length. But Chapter VII gives promise of a greater service in later volumes, and, with the author's ability in expression, these volumes, if not sacrificed to narrative details, should furnish something of real value in historical literature. Volume II contains five tables on rulers and treaties from 1313 to 1648, four maps, and has an excellent index.

E. D. ADAMS.

*Leland Stanford, Jr., University.*

HILLIS, Newell Dwight. *Fortunes of the Republic*. Pp. 333. Price, \$1.20. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1906.

This book was recently characterized by a business man as follows: "He apparently thinks that the way to learn all about social conditions in the United States is to go from city to city delivering lectures." Yet we are so unaccustomed to thinking in exact terms with regard to government and citizenship that the superlative optimism of this volume will undoubtedly seem to inspire many readers.

"If the rich are growing rich slowly through a falling rate of interest, the working people are growing rich rapidly through a swiftly rising wage. . . . As for morals, it is enough to say that for three years the losses through dishonest clerks have been steadily falling, while the conscience fund in Washington has been steadily rising. . . . Men cannot eat their feast in happiness while others are famishing." Such sentences, written with a desire to stem the tide of discontent, are calculated to make more socialists than the extreme philosophy of those who openly confess the doctrine. If the author had studied the contribution lists of any great city he could not have stated as facts that "The American heart is becoming as sensitive as an aeolian harp." In general, his statements of fact as to social and industrial conditions are about as accurate as the sentence: "While the news of San Francisco's sorrow was still hot upon the wires, eighty millions of people became good samaritans in one day." What actually happened was that eighty millions of people became excited for one day and a few thousands became good samaritans. Quite as far from the mark are the generalizations as to painters, poets, musicians, inventors of genius, who, it is said, "are the after fruits ripened in the warm atmosphere of universal intelligence."

Writing from a city where 150,000 children are from two to six years behind their proper grade in school, and where 400,000 are suffering from physical defects that make them unable to benefit from their schooling in proportion to outlay by the taxpayer; writing from a borough where tens of thousands of children are denied the privilege of proper schooling or even proper breathing, he offers the beautiful sentiment: "There is no position so high that the boy from the forge, factory or the farm may not aspire to and achieve the honor offered." After a year of exposure that has revolutionized the attitude of press and public toward corporate corruption and

what has hitherto been called American success, he says: "The great majority of the fortunes of this country have been made, not through fraud or oppression, but through ability that has done far more for the poor man than for its possessor." He disingenuously upbraids the working man for being discontent with his wages, and at the same time inveighs against churches that fail to pay more adequate salaries to missionaries and preachers. In elaborating this injustice he forgets what he has repeatedly said in other portions of the book about the benevolent rich, and declares: "I am ashamed of the selfishness of the wealthy. These men always ask others to do the sacrificing."

It is such thinking and such writing that furnish the soil that will forever produce corruption in business and in politics. Fortunately, it may be said that the optimism which the author says has been forced upon him by much travel and by the pressure of events, is not the kind that the leading pulpитеers of the country are meeting in their travels and are being forced by pressure of events to preach to their congregations.

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**Johnson, W. F.** *Four Centuries of the Panama Canal.* Pp. ix, 461. Price, \$3.00. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1906.

There are perhaps few subjects on which so much has been written in a fragmentary way as on that of the Panama Canal. Nearly all writings, however, treat of the subject from some special standpoint; some of them briefly and others in detail. The volume entitled "Four centuries of the Panama Canal" treats the subject chiefly from the historical and political standpoints. Technical matters are barely touched on, while the commercial and military aspects are not referred to.

The historical part is quite full, particularly that covering the early days, and shows great research on the part of the author, who has not allowed an important event to escape him. No better account in a connected form of the doings of the explorers in the early days of this great enterprise is known to exist.

The name of the work would indicate that it treats of the Panama Canal alone, but all the other projects of an interoceanic waterway come up for consideration, as they naturally would, on account of their intimate connection.

Perhaps the greatest defect of the work is the failure of the author to discuss the commercial and military aspects. These are subjects of great importance. But for the commercial and military value to the United States it is not probable that any canal across the isthmus would ever have been attempted by this government. Moreover, there is a good deal of misapprehension in the popular mind on both of these points. Many believe that the canal will revolutionize navigation; others that it will be of little benefit. There is a mean between these two extremes, and it is of importance that the